

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, XE

SUBJECT: HOUSE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE CODEL

1. SUMMARY: HOUSE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE IS PLANNING
APPROXIMATELY 30-DAY TRIP FROM MID-NOVEMBER TO MID-DECEMBER
FOR PRIMARY PURPOSE OF EVALUATING AUSTRALIAN EXPERIENCE
WITH MANDATORY SEAT BELT LAWS AND RELATED HIGHWAY SAFETY
MEASURES. CODEL WILL ALSO BE INTERESTED IN POLLUTION
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CONTROL, URBAN AND HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION, ETC. CODEL

WILL PROBABLY SPEND APPROXIMATELY 10 DAYS IN AUSTRALIA, 5 DAYS EACH IN NEW ZEALAND AND JAPAN, 2-3 DAYS IN ONE OR MORE OF FOLLOWING: SINGAPORE, BANGKOK, SAIGON, MANILA, HONG KONG. ACTION REQUESTED: PLANNING SUGGESTIONS FROM ADDRESSEE POSTS. END SUMMARY.

2. HOUSE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE IS PRESENTLY LAYING INITIAL PLANS FOR FAR EAST SWING, FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF PRESENT SESSION, FOR APPROXIMATELY 30 DAYS BEGINNING NOVEMBER 15. COMPOSITION OF CODEL NOT YET KNOWN, BUT DEPARTMENT IS ADVISED GROUP OF PERHAPS A DOZEN OR MORE--INCLUDING FOUR STAFFDELS--WILL BE FORMED. SOME WIVES MAY ALSO ACCOMPANY. PRIMARY PURPOSE WILL BE TO EVALUATE AUSTRALIAN EXPERIENCE WITH MANDATORY SEAT BELT LAWS AND OTHER HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAMS. COMMITTEE ALSO HAS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, URBAN AND

HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION, LAND USE, RIVERS AND HARBORS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS. AT INITIAL PLANNING SESSION WITH DEPT. OFFICERS, COMMITTEE STAFFER SPOKE IN TERMS OF ABOUT FIVE DAYS IN NEW ZEALAND (FOLLOWING 2-3 DAY STOP IN AMERICAN SAMOA), 8-10 DAYS IN AUSTRALIA, WITH ALTERNATIVES FOR THREE DAYS IN SINGAPORE OR HONG KONG AND IN ADDITION A POSSIBLE STOP IN BANGKOK, SAIGON OR MANILA. AT PRESENT SINGAPORE, HONG KONG, BANGKOK, SAIGON AND MANILA SCHEDULES ARE TO REMAIN OPEN. LAST STOP WOULD BE JAPAN FOR APPROXIMATELY 5 DAYS, WITH DEPARTURE FROM TOKYO FOR HONOLULU O/A DECEMBER 15.

3. FOR CANBERRA, SYDNEY, MELBOURNE: SCHEDULE WOULD REVOLVE PRIMARILY AROUND EVENTS IN AUSTRALIA, WITH MELBOURNE, SYDNEY AND CANBERRA THE THREE PROBABLE STOPS. COMMITTEE MEMBERS WOULD WANT TO MEET WITH APPROPRIATE FEDERAL AND STATE MINISTERS, PARLIAMENTARY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS AS WELL AS STATE COMMITTEES INVOLVED IN HIGHWAY SAFETY, ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS, AND ACADEMICIANS AND PRESS WHO HAVE MONITORED SEAT BELT AND RELATED CAMPAIGNS. (DEPARTMENT IS FORWARDING BY POUCH TO CANBERRA, SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE LIST OF UNCLASSIFIED

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OFFICIALS RECOMMENDED TO COMMITTEE BY A THIRD PARTY SOURCE.) COMMITTEE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SNOWY MOUNTAIN HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT, IN ADDITION TO TOPICS MENTIONED. COMMITTEE HAS ALSO BEEN IN TOUCH WITH GENERAL MOTORS HERE TO SET UP BRIEFING BY HOLDEN. (EMBASSY SHOULD TOUCH BASE WITH HOLDEN TO DETERMINE STATUS OF BRIEFING ACTIVITY.) CODEL MAY ALSO BE INTERESTED IN VISIT TO PERTH TO DISCUSS RELATIONSHIP OF

MINING ACTIVITIES TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS. FYI COMMITTEE HAS ADVISED AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY INFORMALLY OF POSSIBILITY OF CODEL VISIT, BUT HAS NOT GONE INTO DETAIL. END FYI.

4. FOR WELLINGTON: NEW ZEALAND STOPOVER WILL BE OF APPROXIMATELY 5 DAYS. CODEL WOULD BE INTERESTED IN GEOTHERMAL EXPERIMENTS IN NEW ZEALAND AND DISCUSSION OF RECENT WELLINGTON CITY DECISION AGAINST CONSTRUCTION OF A METRO. CODEL ALSO INTERESTED IN NEW ZEALAND HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM. TO EXTENT TIME PERMITS, ONE OR MORE MEMBERS OF CODEL WILL PROBABLY BE KEEN ON SOME HUNTING/FISHING.

5. FOR TOKYO: CODEL HAS NOT FOCUSED YET ON SPECIFIC INTEREST IN JAPAN, BUT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE INTERESTED IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS AS WELL AS TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITIES.

6. FOR ALL ACTION ADDRESSEES: COMMITTEE DOES NOT REPEAT NOT WANT TIGHTLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMS. SCHEDULE SHOULD PERMIT SUFFICIENT TIME FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES. COMMITTEE WOULD WELCOME SOME OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN SOCIAL FUNCTIONS BUT AGAIN WOULD WANT SUCH FUNCTIONS WELL-SPACED. IF SCHEDULING PERMITS, AT LEAST SOME OF CODEL WILL WANT OPPORTUNITY TO GOLF. PARTICULARLY IN NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA. OTHER POSTS SHOULD BEAR THIS POSSIBILITY IN MIND AS WELL. ALL ACTION ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO SUBMIT BY SEPTEMBER 20 SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR CODEL CONSIDERATION WHICH ARE IN ACCORD WITH INTERESTS OF COMMITTEE AS OUTLINED ABOVE. CANBERRA MAY WISH TO COMMENT IN PARTICULAR WITH RESPECT TO UNCLASSIFIED

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PERTH POSSIBILITY FOR CODEL; ADDITIONALLY ON WHETHER A PORT MORESBY STOP COULD BE USEFUL TO CODEL. ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE THAT ALTHOUGH LEADERSHIP HOPES TO CONCLUDE THIS CONGRESSIONAL SESSION BY NOVEMBER 1, SESSION COULD DRAG ON AND AFFECT MID-NOVEMBER ARRIVAL IN NEW ZEALAND AND SUBSEQUENT STOPS. WHAT IS NEEDED NOW ARE PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS, AND NOT SPECIFIC SCHEDULING.

7. FOR INFO ADDRESSEES: AT THIS POINT COMMITTEE HAS NOT INDICATED SUBSTANTIVE INTEREST IN YOUR RESPECTIVE POSTS. IF, HOWEVER, SOME PARTICULAR ACTIVITY MIGHT IN YOUR JUDGMENT BE DEEMED OF INTEREST TO COMMITTEE, YOUR COMMENTS WOULD BE WELCOMED. FOR EXAMPLE, COMMITTEE HAS TINKERED WITH IDEA OF HAVING LOOK AT HONG KONG

FERRY SERVICE AND ITS POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP TO COASTAL
OR RIVER PORT CITIES IN U.S. RUSH

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